Illicit Drug Consumption and Consequences in Oregon

Initial Report of Oregon's State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

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To the reader,

This report is one of three epidemiological profiles on substance use in Oregon. The purpose of the epidemiological profiles is to summarize the nature, magnitude and distribution of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use and related consequences in the State. Each profile is written as a stand-alone document. The appendices include tables that detail trend data for each indicator reviewed by the SEOW.

This report profiles the use and impact of illicit drugs including information on the use of: marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, Ecstasy, heroin, and nonmedical use of prescription drugs including stimulants and pain relievers.

The profile reports are the product of collaborative efforts of Oregon's State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). The SEOW includes representatives of agencies that supply or use data regarding alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. Members represent federal, state, county and tribal government; research organizations and universities; Governor-appointed committees; and addictions-related professional organizations.

Compilation of the information presented in each profile is one of a series of steps to promote data-driven decision-making for prevention efforts in Oregon. Other epidemiological profiles include:

- Alcohol Consumption & Consequences in Oregon
- Tobacco Consumption & Consequences in Oregon
- Alcohol, Tobacco & Illicit Drug Consumption & Consequences, Executive Summary

The Executive Summary highlights the findings from all three profiles.

All reports can be accessed online at the location noted below.

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Initial Report of Oregon's State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

Introduction

In March 2006, the State of Oregon received funding from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to establish a state epidemiological outcomes workgroup (SEOW). The mission of the SEOW is to facilitate the use of data in policymaking and program decision-making for substance abuse prevention at the state, county, tribal and local community level. The Department of Human Services (DHS) substance abuse prevention programs target people who have not been diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder. Services may target an entire population (Universal Prevention), specific groups of people who are at above-average risk of involvement with illicit drugs (Selective Prevention), or specific individuals who show signs of involvement with drugs but who have not been diagnosed with abuse or dependence (Indicated Prevention).

About the profile

The purpose of the epidemiological profile on illicit drugs is to summarize the nature, magnitude and distribution of illicit drug use and related consequences in Oregon. Use of illicit drugs includes use of one or more of any of the following: marijuana or hashish, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, Ecstasy, heroin, and nonmedical use of prescription drugs which include stimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, and pain relievers.

The information presented in this section is one of a series of steps to promote data-driven decision-making in an ongoing process of assessment, planning, and monitoring at State and community levels. The profile uses statewide data that has been measured consistently for three or more years and is readily available and accessible to the public. This report summarizes state-level findings; future reports will examine demographic and geographic data further.

How the information is organized

In developing the epidemiological profile for illicit drugs, a selection of indicators about illicit drug use and its consequences was examined. These indicators are organized into a set of constructs that provide a picture of illicit drug use and its impacts across the lifespan. See Table 1 below.

Information about the consequences of illicit drug use is presented first, then patterns of illicit drug use, and finally a summary of what we learned.

State trend data for the drug indicators listed below can be found in Appendices B through E.

Table 1. Illicit Drug Constructs and Indicators

Construct	Indicator(s)	Data source
Drug-related mortality	• Number of deaths from illicit drug use per 100,000 population	National Center for Health Statistics
	• Number of deaths from illicit drug use per 100,000 population • Number of cocaine related deaths per 100,000 population • Number of heroin related deaths per 100,000 population • Number of methamphetamine related deaths per 100,000 population	Oregon Medical Examiner
Crime	• Number of property crimes per 10,000 population	Law Enforcement Data System
Drug dependence or abuse	• Percent of persons 12 or older meeting DSM-IV criteria for drug abuse or dependence	National Survey on Drug Use and Health
Current use of drugs	• Percent of persons reporting use of any illicit drugs in the past 30 days • Percent of persons who used marijuana in the past 30 days • Percent of persons reporting past month illicit drug use other than marijuana	
Past year use of drugs	• Percent of persons who used prescription pain relievers in the past year • Percent of persons who used cocaine in the past year	
Age of initial use	• Percent of persons who used marijuana for the first time in the past year	
	• Percent of youth who were less than 13 years old when they first used marijuana	Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Current use of drugs by youth	• Percent of youth who used marijuana in the past 30 days • Percent of youth who used illicit drugs other than marijuana in the past 30 days • Percent of youth who used inhalants in the past 30 days • Percent of youth who used prescription drugs in the past 30 days • Percent of youth who used methamphetamines in the past 30 days • Percent of youth who used cocaine in the past 30 days	
Lifetime drug use by youth	• Percent of youth who used methamphetamine sometime in their life • Percent of youth who used any form of cocaine sometime in their life	Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

How the data was assessed

In each profile, the SEOW examines data about preventable consequences first, and then focuses on indicators that have a causal relationship. Starting with an examination of consequences helps focus the profiles on issues that are meaningful to decision makers and the public. In this way prevention efforts can preferentially target the substance use behaviors that lead to negative consequences.

Whenever indicator data could be disaggregated, the SEOW examined the distribution of substance use and related consequences across the lifespan, and between genders. The profiles use easy to understand approaches in identifying and assessing patterns. Findings are described based on:

- The magnitude or size of the of the problems;
- Changes over time that reveal improving or worsening trends;
- Comparison of Oregon results to those of the nation and comparison of the direction of Oregon trends to the direction of U.S. trends;
- Differences in the magnitude of consequences and consumption through subgroup analyses based on age and gender; and

- Consequences or consumption patterns that have the potential to more severely impact individuals and society than others.

Illicit Drugs

There is limited data available about adult use of illicit drugs and the mechanisms needed to collect consequence-related data for illicit drugs are not as well developed as the ones used for alcohol and tobacco. As a result consequence data linked to illicit drug use are limited to rates of substance abuse or dependence and mortality data.

Despite these limitations, review of available data shows that illicit drugs have a greater impact in Oregon compared to the nation. Oregon's drug-related mortality rate was at least twice the rate of the United States every year since 1999. Oregon also has higher rates of marijuana use, methamphetamine use, and illicit use of prescription stimulants and pain relievers.[1]

Illicit drug use by youth in Oregon is especially disconcerting. When it comes to alcohol and cigarettes, youth 12 to 17 years old are less than half as likely as adults 26 or older to report use in the past month. However, Oregon youth are more likely to use, abuse or be dependent on illicit drugs than adults 26 or older. Rates of marijuana use by Oregon youth are more than double the rate of adults 26 or older. Estimates of drug abuse or dependence for youth were also twice the adult rate.

Illicit drug use is highest for 18 to 25 year old adults in Oregon, more than four times higher than for adults 26 or older. Estimates of rates of drug abuse or dependence for young adults were more than three times higher than those of adults 26 or older.[2]

Drug-related Consequences

Illicit drug use contributes both directly and indirectly to morbidity and mortality but mechanisms to collect and report state-level data on the impact of drugs is limited.

Each month, one of every ten Oregonians 12 or older smokes marijuana. Despite this fact, there are no data on the effects of marijuana in Oregon. Research shows that people who smoke marijuana frequently have more health problems and miss more days of work than nonsmokers. Smoking marijuana regularly has many of the same respiratory problems that tobacco smoke has including more frequent acute chest illness, a heightened risk of lung infections, and greater tendency to obstructed airways. In fact, marijuana smoke contains 50 to 70 percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than does tobacco smoke, increasing the

potential to develop cancer of the head, neck, lungs and other parts of the respiratory tract.[3]

Unfortunately, there are no reports of marijuana-linked morbidity or mortality in Oregon so it isn't possible to assess the impact of marijuana use in the same way as alcohol or tobacco use.

About the consequence indicators

This section examines data for three constructs for consequences of illicit drug use: crime, drug dependence or abuse, and drug-related mortality. Four sources of data have been used to examine these constructs:

- Information about crimes are reported by police in the Law Enforcement Data System and used to generate Oregon's Annual Uniform Crime Report. This section will review property crime data because property crimes are frequently committed to obtain money to purchase drugs.
- Abuse and dependence are assessed through the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). NSDUH includes a series of questions to assess the prevalence of substance dependence or abuse in the past 12 months. These questions are used to classify persons as dependent on or abusing specific substances based on criteria specified in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th edition (DSM-IV).[4]
- State and national rates of death directly attributed to illicit drug use can be obtained using death certificate data. This includes death due to drug psychoses, drug dependence, abuse of drugs and polyneuropathy due to drug use. This indicator only includes deaths; illicit drug-related morbidity is not reflected. Deaths in which drugs may have been a contributing but not primary cause are not included.
- The State Medical Examiner conducts post mortem examination and alcohol and drug analyses for all deaths requiring investigation. An annual report based on all investigated deaths provides data on drug-related deaths including deaths in which drug use was a contributing factor. The epidemiological profile provides data on four subcategories including all drug-related deaths and deaths involving cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine.

Property crime in Oregon

Oregon's Annual Crime Report includes burglary, larceny, arson, fraud, stolen property, forgery/counterfeiting, embezzlement, vandalism, and motor vehicle theft as crimes against property. Drug-related property crimes are usually committed to obtain money to purchase drugs. Drug

attribution rates for property crime range from approximately seven percent for motor vehicle theft to 30 percent for burglary and larceny.

- In 2005, property crimes accounted for 52.1 percent of all reported offenses (233,938 property crimes out of 448,670 total offenses).
- The property crime rate in 2005 was 22 percent lower than in 1997. Most of this decline (17.9%) occurred from 1997 to 1999. The 2005 property crime rate was 3.6 percent lower when compared to 2000. See Table 2 below.

Table 2. Property crime in Oregon – 1997, 1999 and 2005

	1997	1999	2005
Number of crimes	225,096	267,388	233,938
Crime rate per 10,000 population	831.2	681.9	644.2

Data Source: Oregon Annual Crime Report

Drug dependence or abuse

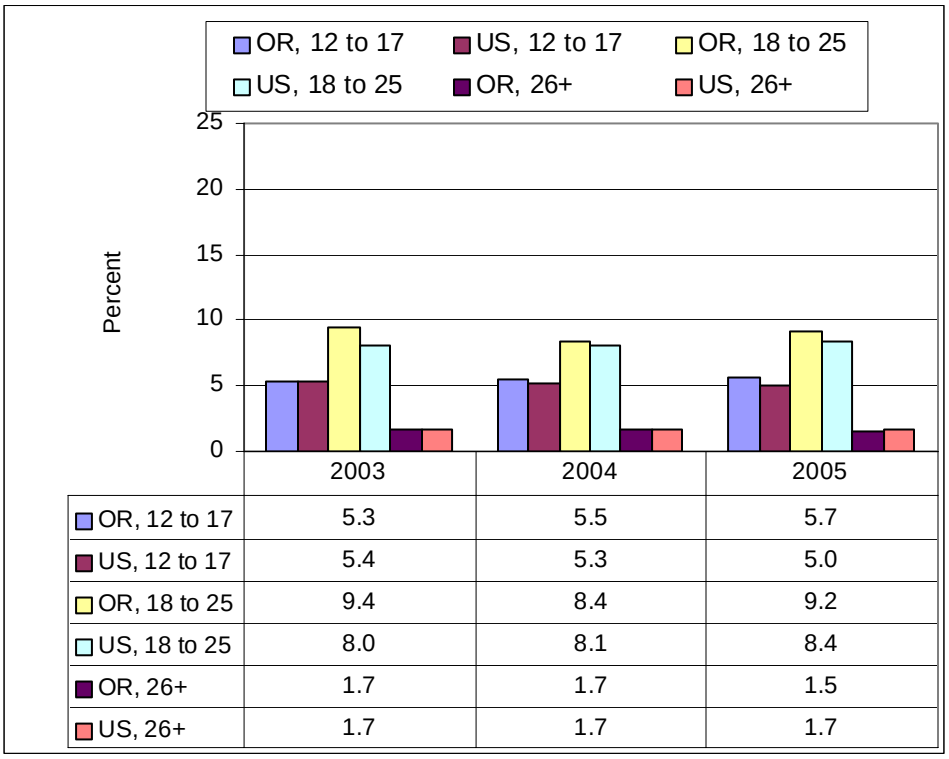
The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NDSUH), an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, conducts in home interviews with civilian, noninstitutionalized persons ages 12 years or older. A respondent was defined with abuse if he or she met one or more of the four criteria for abuse and did not meet the definition for dependence for that substance. A respondent was defined with dependence if he or she met three out of six dependence criteria in DSM-IV.

Based on NSDUH results, Oregon's rate of drug dependence or abuse for persons 12 or older was 2.9 percent. A look at the rate of past year drug abuse or dependence shows 18 to 25 year olds with the highest rates and those 26 or older with the lowest. See Figure 1 below

Based on these estimates:

- One out of 20 youth ages 12 to 17 suffers from drug abuse or dependence (about 17,000 persons annually);
- For young adults 18 to 25 years old, 1 out of 12 meets DSM-IV criteria for drug abuse or dependence (about 36,000 persons annually); and
- Approximately 35,000 adults 26 or older abuse or are dependent on drugs each year. .

Figure 1. Comparison of drug abuse or dependence in Oregon, by age – 2002 to 2005



	2003	2004	2005
OR, 12 to 17	5.3	5.5	5.7
US, 12 to 17	5.4	5.3	5.0
OR, 18 to 25	9.4	8.4	9.2
US, 18 to 25	8.0	8.1	8.4
OR, 26+	1.7	1.7	1.5
US, 26+	1.7	1.7	1.7

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Drug-related mortality

This section provides data on drug-related deaths from two sources: death certificate data and State Medical Examiner reports. Death certificate data provides information regarding deaths directly attributed to illicit drug use. Deaths in which drugs may have been a contributing but not primary cause are not included.

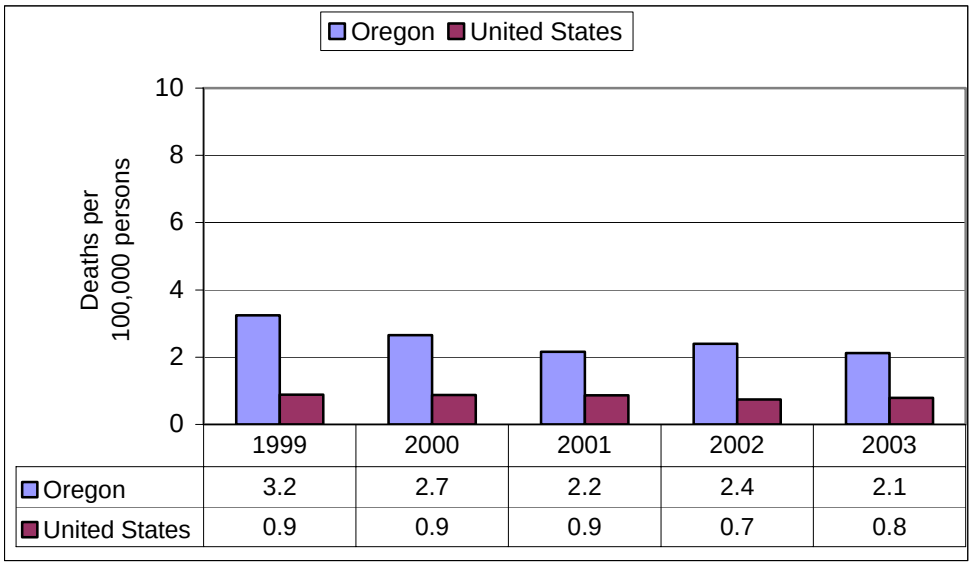
Oregon Medical Examiner's Annual Drug Related Death Report shows higher rates of drug-related deaths than those based on death certificates. In addition to deaths resulting from the unlawful use of controlled substances or the use or abuse of chemicals or toxic agents, drug analyses are conducted on: deaths that result from homicide, suicide, or suspicious or unknown circumstances; deaths resulting from an accident or injury; deaths resulting from employment; and deaths of individuals not under the care of a physician immediately previous to death. All post mortem toxicological results that are positive for drugs are included in the report.

Death certificate data

Oregon's rate of drug-related deaths decreased from 1999 to 2003. Despite the decline, Oregon's drug-related mortality rate was at least twice the rate of the United States every year from 1999 to 2003. See Figure 2 below.

- In 2003, the rate of drug-related deaths was a third lower that that of 1999. There were 2.1 drug-related deaths per 100,000 persons in Oregon in 2003, versus 3.2 deaths per 100,000 in 1999.

Figure 2. Number of drug-related deaths in Oregon and the United States – 1999 to 2003



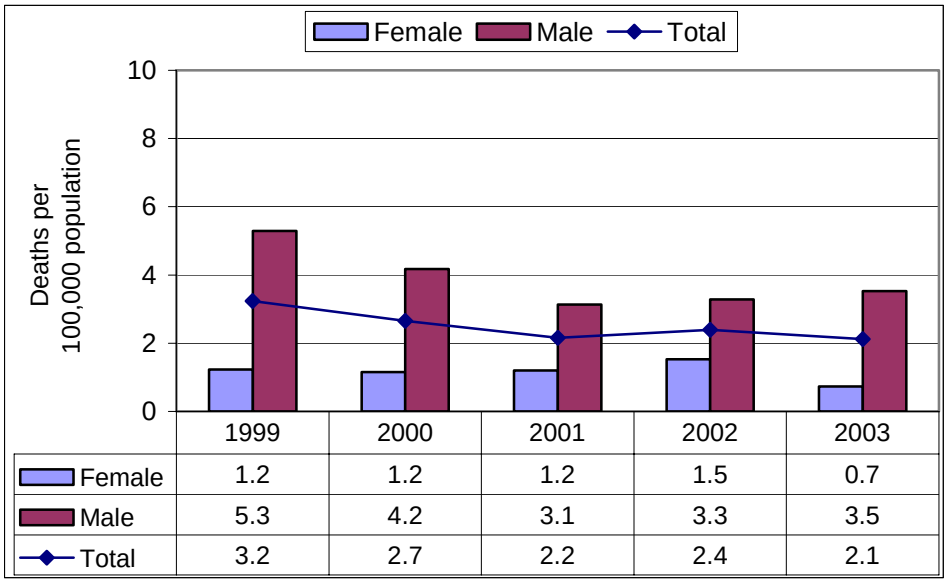
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Oregon	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.1
United States	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Gender

- Males have higher rates of drug-related deaths than females. In 2003, males had 5 times the rate of drug-related deaths as females, 3.5 per 100,000 versus 0.7 per 100,000. See Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. Drug-related deaths in Oregon, by gender – 1999 to 2003



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Female	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.5	0.7
Male	5.3	4.2	3.1	3.3	3.5
Total	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.1

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics

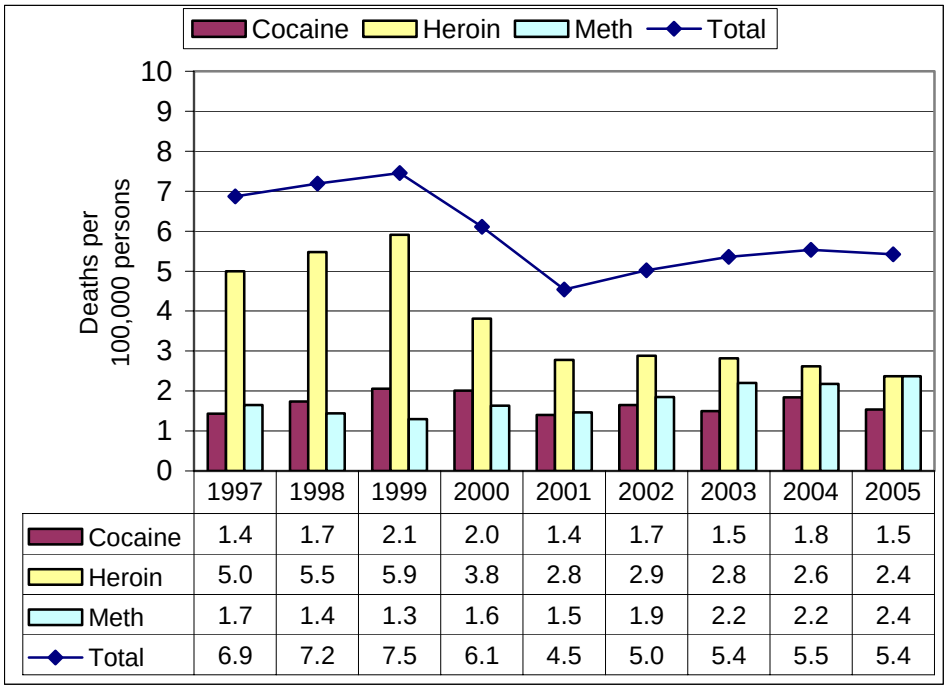
Medical Examiner reports

The Oregon Medical Examiner's (ME) Annual Drug-Related Deaths Report is a source of trend data on the rate of: drug-related deaths, cocaine-related deaths, heroin-related deaths, and methamphetamine-related deaths. Note that the total for all drug-related deaths is less than the sum of the death rates for individual substances as deaths showing toxicological results in which more than one drug was consumed, may be reported in multiple categories.

The ME's report provides additional information that illustrates the impact of methamphetamine use as it spread throughout the state. See Figure 4 below.

- From 1999 to 2001 a drop in heroin-related deaths resulted in a decrease in the overall rate of drug-related deaths reported by the Medical Examiner. The 2005 rate of heroin-related deaths was half the 1997 rate; 2.4 per 100,000 versus 5.0 per 100,000.
- From 2001 to 2003, drug-related deaths increased, driven mainly by the increase in methamphetamine-related deaths. In 2005, for the first time, the rate of methamphetamine-related deaths equaled that of heroin-related deaths, 2.4 per 100,000 persons.
- From 1999 to 2005, cocaine-related deaths show year-to-year variations without a clear directional trend.

Figure 4. Number of drug-related deaths in Oregon – 1997 to 2005



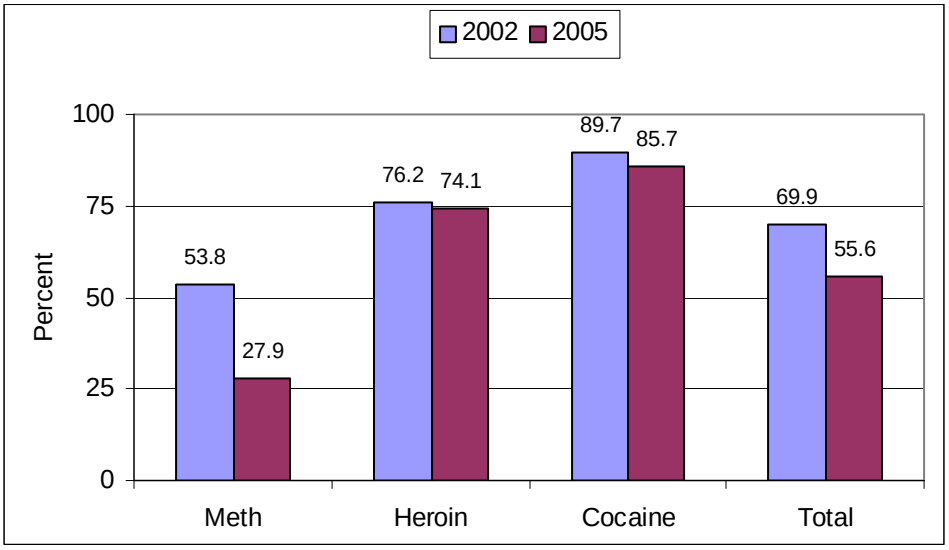
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cocaine	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.5
Heroin	5.0	5.5	5.9	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.4
Meth	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.4
Total	6.9	7.2	7.5	6.1	4.5	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.4

Data Source: Oregon State Medical Examiner's Annual Drug Related Death Report

In the last five years there's been a notable shift in where drug-related deaths are taking place. Historically drug-related deaths have occurred overwhelmingly in the tri-county area surrounding Portland, including Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. Comparison of 2002 deaths with those of 2005 shows a decrease in the percent of drug-related deaths occurring in the tri-county area even as the total number of deaths has increased. See Figure 5 below.

- From 2002 to 2005 the total number of drug-related deaths increased from 176 to 196, but the total number of drug-related deaths occurring in the Portland tri-county area decreased from 123 in 2002 to 109 in 2005. In the rest of the state drug-related deaths went from 53 to 93, a 175% increase.
- In 2002, 69.9 percent of all drug-related deaths in Oregon occurred in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington counties. By 2005, that dropped to 55.6 percent of the drug-related deaths.
- In 2002 about half of the methamphetamine-related deaths occurred in the Portland tri-county area. In 2005, the tri-county area had about a quarter of the meth-related deaths and nearly three quarters occurred outside of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. See Figure 5 below.

Figure 5. Comparison of the percent of drug-related deaths taking place in the Portland tri-county area 2002 and 2005



Data Source: Oregon State Medical Examiner's Annual Drug Related Death Report

Illicit Drug Consumption

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health provides annual state-level data for illicit drug use by persons 12 or older, but information on specific substances is limited. The Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) survey provides a more detailed picture of 8th and 11th grade students' drug use. This section will examine adult illicit drug use first, then illicit drug use by Oregon youth. For each age group, use of any illicit drugs is discussed first, then marijuana use, followed by other illicit drugs.

The top five illicit drugs most frequently abused by Oregon youth are discussed in this section (marijuana, inhalants, prescription drugs, cocaine and methamphetamine). The Oregon Healthy Teens survey provides data about additional substances including use of Ecstasy, steroids, heroin and injected drug use. Use rates for these drugs varied from zero to 1.7 percent. The Ecstasy, steroids, heroin and injected drug use data can be found in Appendices C, D and E but they are not discussed in this section.

Illicit drug use by adults

Prevalence estimates for adult illicit drug use are determined using the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). The survey is conducted through in home interviews with civilian, noninstitutionalized persons 12 years or older. Illicit drugs include use of one or more of any of the following: marijuana or hashish, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens,

Ecstasy, heroin, and nonmedical use of prescription drugs which includes stimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, and pain relievers.

Survey results are presented for four age categories: 12 to 17 year olds; 18 to 25 year olds; 26 or older; and all persons 12 or older. This section will look at results for the last three categories. Data for 12 to 17 year olds is included in the section that follows on illicit drug use by youth.

Results of six indicators of illicit drug use are presented below:

- The percent of persons who used any illicit drug in the past 30 days including use of marijuana, abusable legal products such as inhalants, and prescription drugs, and illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens and methamphetamine;
- The percent of persons who used marijuana or hashish in the past 30 days;
- The percent of initial users of marijuana in the past year;
- The percent of persons who used illicit drugs other than marijuana, including illegal drugs and abusable legal products;
- The percent of persons who used prescription medications for nonmedical purposes in the past year; and
- The percent of persons who used cocaine in the past year.

Any illicit drug use

Oregon's rate of past month illicit drug use, including marijuana, for persons 12 or older is higher than that of the United States for all three years, 2003 to 2005. In 2005, nearly one of every ten persons 12 or older used illicit drugs in the past 30 days. See Table 3 below.

Table 3. Percent of persons 12 or older who used any illicit drug, including marijuana, in Oregon and the United States – 2002 to 2004

	2003	2004	2005
U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	8.0%
Oregon	10.9%	9.5%	9.6%
(95% confidence interval)	(9.2-12.7)	(8.2-10.9)	(8.3-11.2)

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

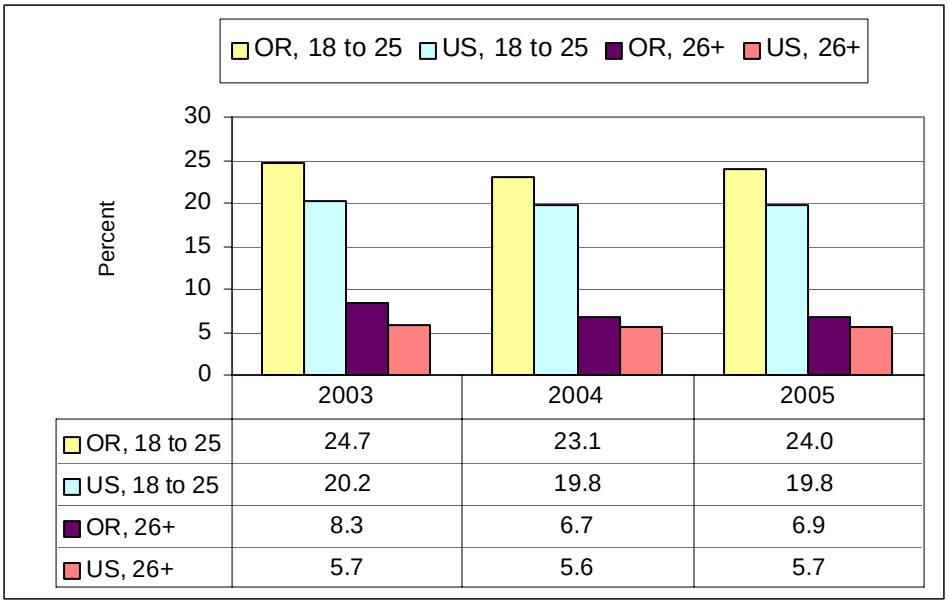
Age

The rate of illicit drug use, including marijuana, by Oregon adults is higher than that of the nation for all adult age categories. See Figure 6 below.

- Use of any illicit drugs in the past month is highest for adults 18 to 25 years. In 2005, 24.0 percent of 18 to 25 year olds (about 95,000) used illicit drugs each month compared to 19.8 percent nationwide.

- The 2005 rate of past month illicit drug use among adults 26 or older was 6.9 percent versus 5.7 percent for the United States. This means about 160,000 adults over 25 used illicit drugs each month, including marijuana.

Figure 6. Comparison of past month use of any illicit drugs in Oregon and the United States, by age - 2003 to 2005



	2003	2004	2005
OR, 18 to 25	24.7	23.1	24.0
US, 18 to 25	20.2	19.8	19.8
OR, 26+	8.3	6.7	6.9
US, 26+	5.7	5.6	5.7

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Marijuana use

Oregon's rate of past month marijuana use for persons 12 or older is higher than that of the United States for all three years, 2003 to 2005. In 2005, 6.0 percent of those surveyed used marijuana in the past month, about 253,000 persons. See Table 4 below.

Table 4. Percent of persons 12 or older who used marijuana in Oregon and the United States – 2002 to 2004

	2003	**2004**	**2005**
U.S.	6.2%	6.1%	6.0%
Oregon	8.9%	8.0%	8.4%
(95% confidence interval)	(7.4-10.7)	(6.8-9.5)	(7.1-9.8)

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

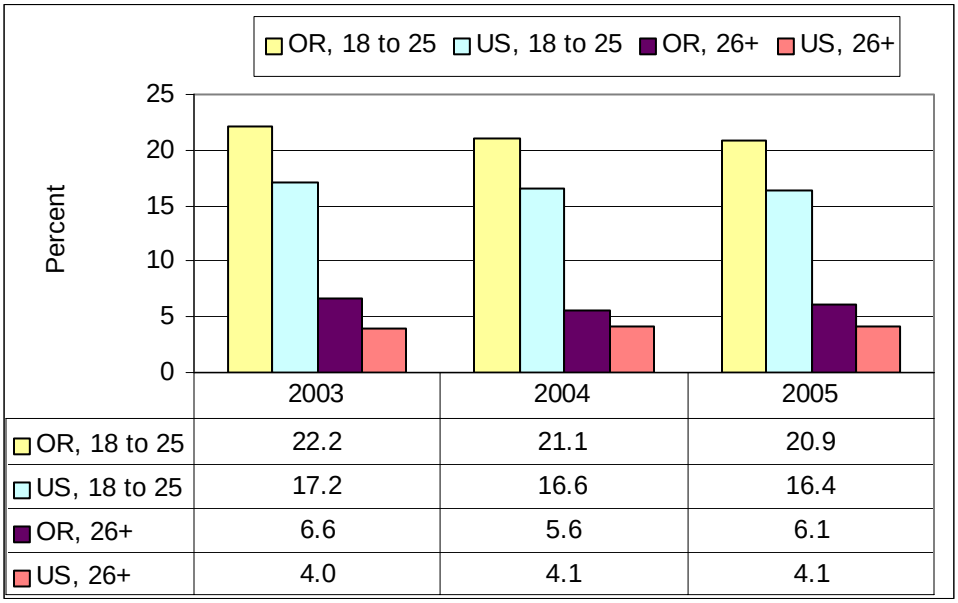
Age

- Compared to the nation, Oregon adults have higher marijuana use rates. In 2005, the rate of past month marijuana use by adults 26 or older was 48 percent higher than the national rate (6.1% versus 4.1%);

marijuana use for Oregonians 18 to 25 year olds was 27 percent higher than the national rate (20.9% versus 16.4%).

- Young adults, 18 to 25 years had rates of past month marijuana use that were more than three times higher than those of adults 26 or older (20.9% versus 6.1%). About one of every five young adults in Oregon used marijuana. See Figure 7 below.

Figure 7. Comparison of past month use of marijuana in Oregon and the United States, by age - 2003 to 2005



	2003	2004	2005
OR, 18 to 25	22.2	21.1	20.9
US, 18 to 25	17.2	16.6	16.4
OR, 26+	6.6	5.6	6.1
US, 26+	4.0	4.1	4.1

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

First time marijuana use

This measure looks at the percent of persons who used marijuana for the first time in the past year. Oregon's rate of first time marijuana users is consistent with that of the nation. In 2005:

- 2.1 percent of Oregonians 12 or older used marijuana for the first time;
- Among adults, 18 to 25 year olds had the highest rate of new users, 6.8 percent;
- New use by adults 26 or older was much lower, 0.2 percent.

Illicit drug use other than marijuana

Other than marijuana, the past month rate of illicit drug use by Oregon adults is comparable to that of the nation. In 2005, 3.8 percent of Oregonians, about 114,000 each month, used illicit drugs other than marijuana compared to 3.6 percent in the United States. The rate of illicit

drug use, other than marijuana, was more than four times higher among 18 to 25 year olds than for adults 26 or older (10.6% versus 2.4%).

Nonmedical use of pain relievers

Oregon's past year rate of nonmedical use of pain relievers for persons 12 or older is higher than that of the United States (5.7% versus 4.8%). See Table 5 below.

Table 5. Percent of persons 12 or older who used pain relievers for nonmedical purposes in the past year in Oregon and the United States

	2004	2005
U.S.	4.8%	4.8%
Oregon (95% confidence interval)	5.6% (4.6-6.7)	5.7% (4.8-6.7)

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

- Nonmedical use of pain relievers was more than three times higher for young adults 18 to 25 years, than for adults 26 or older (14.3 % versus 3.8%).

Table 6 below provides information regarding specific prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs used nonmedically among persons 12 years or older. Nonmedical use of prescription-type pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives does not include over-the-counter drugs. Oregon had higher rates of use of pain relievers, stimulants and methamphetamines than the nation. The past year rate of use of tranquilizers and sedatives was about the same as the U.S. rate. (The 95% confidence interval is reported in parentheses.)

Table 6. Rates of nonmedical use of prescription drugs in the past year in Oregon and the United States - 2002-2004

Drug	Oregon	United States
Nonmedical Use of any Psychotherapeutics	7.7% (5.8-10.1)	6.2%
Pain Relievers	6.0% (4.2-8.4)	4.8%
Tranquilizers	2.0% (1.2-3.2)	2.1%
Stimulants	1.9% (1.3-2.7)	1.2%
Methamphetamine	1.1% (0.7-1.5)	0.6%
Sedatives	0.4% (0.1-1.1)	0.4%

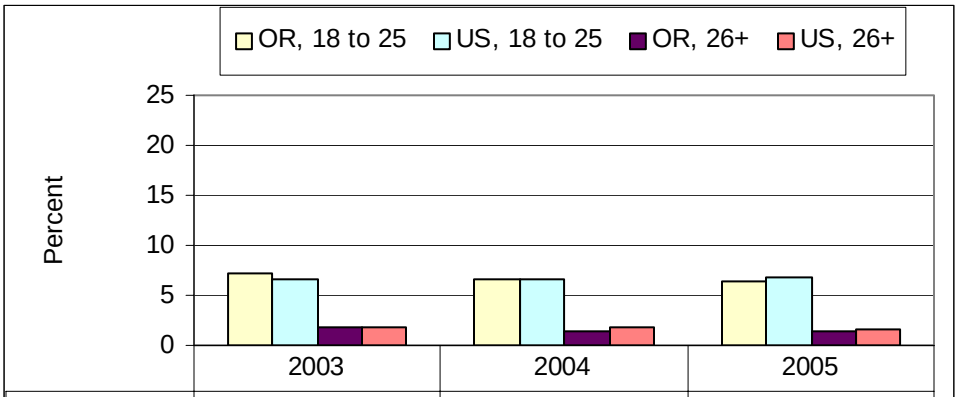
Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Cocaine use

In 2005, cocaine use was about the same as that of the United States for persons 12 or older (2.1% versus 2.3%). The past year rate of cocaine use by Oregon adults has declined each year from 2003 to 2005. See Figure 8 below.

- In 2005, young adults, 18 to 25 years, had more than four times higher past year rates of cocaine use than adults 26 or older (6.5% versus 1.4%)

Figure 8. Comparison of adult cocaine use in the past year in Oregon and the United States, by age - 2003 to 2005



	2003	2004	2005
OR, 18 to 25	7.3	6.6	6.5
US, 18 to 25	6.7	6.6	6.8
OR, 26+	1.7	1.5	1.4
US, 26+	1.9	1.8	1.6

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Illicit drug use by youth

Prevalence estimates for illicit drug use by youth 12 to 17 years are reported based on results of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

In addition, the Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) survey contains a series of questions regarding the use of specific drugs. This section presents OHT results about middle school and high school drug use including:

- Information about age of initial use and past month use of marijuana;
- Past month use of illicit drugs other than marijuana including inhalants, prescription drugs, methamphetamine and cocaine; and
- Lifetime use of methamphetamine and cocaine

Middle school students are surveyed in the 8th grade. This report compares Oregon's results to national 8th grade data from the Monitoring the Future Survey. High school students are surveyed in the 11th grade

and state results are compared to 11th grade national Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System results.

Any illicit drug use

Results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health provide information regarding past month use of any illicit drug including marijuana, abusable legal products such as inhalants and prescription drugs, and illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens and methamphetamine.

- Oregon youth, 12 to 17 years old have use rates consistent with those of the nation. In 2005, 12.2 percent of Oregon youth used an illicit drug in the past 30 days, including marijuana. See Table 7 below.

Table 7. Percent of persons 12 to 17 years who used any illicit drug in the past month in Oregon and the United States – 2003 to 2005

	2003	2004	2005
U.S.	11.4%	10.9%	10.3%
Oregon (95% confidence interval)	12.3% (10.2-14.8)	12.6% (10.4-15.1)	12.2% (10.1-14.7)

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Marijuana use

Based on results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 7.4 percent of youth 12 to 17 years old used marijuana for the first time in 2005. That's about 18,000 youth who use marijuana for the first time each year.

Oregon youth use marijuana at higher rates than the nation. In 2005, about one of every 10 youth, 9.3 percent, reports using marijuana in the past 30 days. See Table 8 below.

Table 8. Percent of persons 12 to 17 years who used marijuana in the past month in Oregon and the United States – 2003 to 2005

	2003	2004	2005
U.S.	8.0%	7.7%	7.2%
Oregon (95% confidence interval)	9.3% (6.5-11.6)	9.7% (7.5-11.5)	9.3% (7.4-11.7)

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

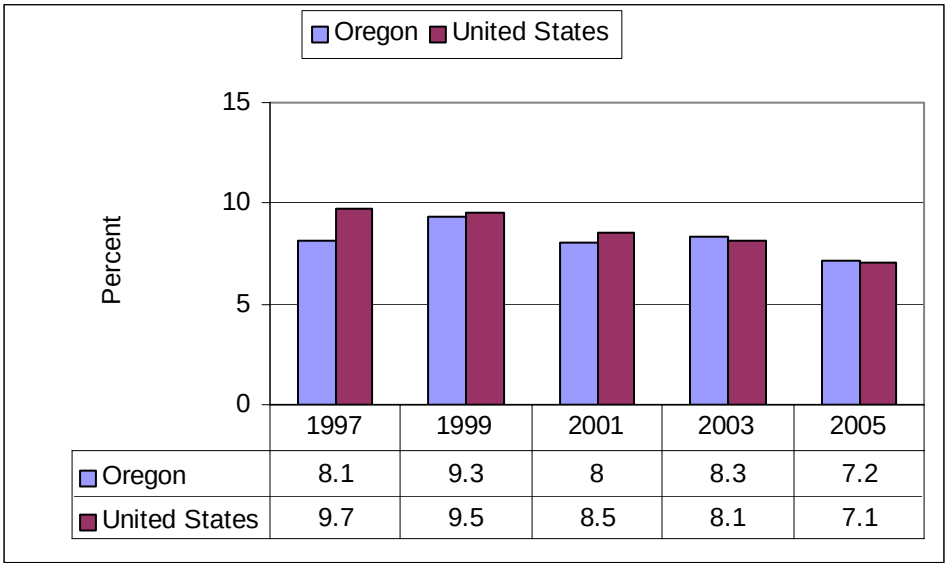
The Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) survey provides additional information regarding past month marijuana use and age of initial use. OHT has collected information about marijuana use since 1997, providing trend data for 8th and 11th grade students broken down by gender.

Age of initial use

The younger youth are when they begin to use marijuana, the more likely they are to continue use in adulthood and the more likely they are to move on to use of other substances. Looking at the percent of 11th graders who were less than 13 years old when they first used marijuana provides valuable information about initial use by the very young.

- The percent of 11th grade students in the United States who tried marijuana before age 13 decreased from 9.7 percent in 1997 to 7.1 percent in 2005. In Oregon the percent of 11th graders who tried marijuana before age 13 peaked in 1999 at 9.3 percent and decreased to 7.2 in 2005. See Figure 9 below.

Figure 9. Age of initial use of marijuana in Oregon and the United States – 1997 to 2005



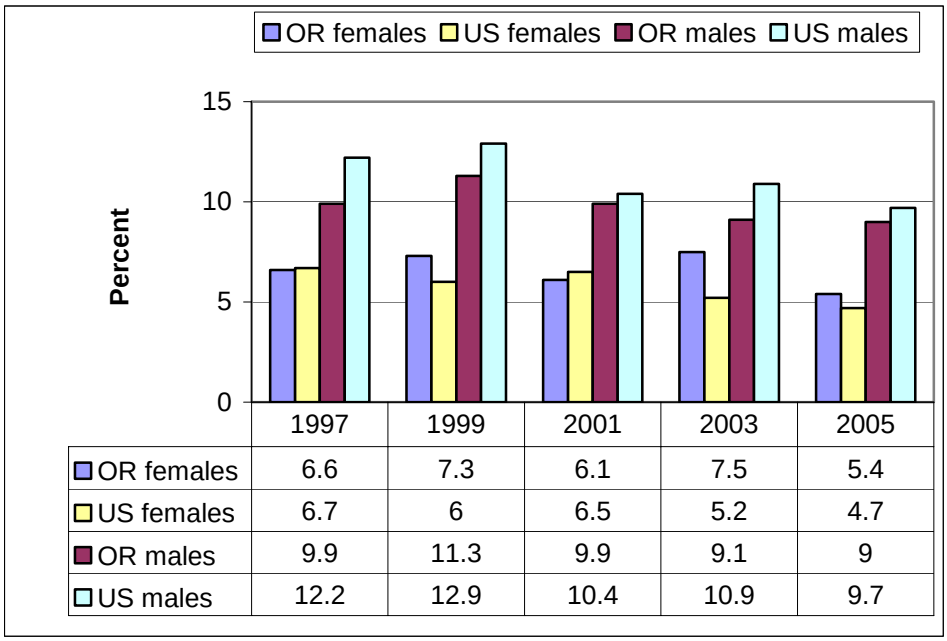
	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Oregon	8.1	9.3	8	8.3	7.2
United States	9.7	9.5	8.5	8.1	7.1

Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

Gender

- A comparison of Oregon to the United States shows Oregon males are less likely to begin using marijuana under 13 years of age. In contrast, in 1999, 2003 and 2005, Oregon females had higher rates of using marijuana before age 13 than the nation. See Figure 10 below.

Figure 10. Percent of 11th grade Oregon youth who were less than 13 when they first used marijuana, by gender – 1997 to 2005



	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
OR females	6.6	7.3	6.1	7.5	5.4
US females	6.7	6	6.5	5.2	4.7
OR males	9.9	11.3	9.9	9.1	9
US males	12.2	12.9	10.4	10.9	9.7

Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Monitoring the Future Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

- Since 1997, males and females in the United States and Oregon have experienced a decline in the percent of youth who first used marijuana under 13 years of age. However, the rate of decline for the United States has outpaced that of Oregon. See Table 7 below.

Table 9. Changes in age of initial use of marijuana, by gender – 1997 to 2005

	Gender	1997	2006	Net decrease	Percent decrease
Oregon	Females	6.6%	5.4%	-1.2	-18.2%
United States	Females	6.7%	4.7%	-2.3	-34.3%
Oregon	Males	9.9%	9.0%	-0.9	-9.1%
United States	Males	12.2%	9.7%	-2.5	-20.5%

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Current marijuana use

Current marijuana use refers to use of marijuana on one or more occasions in the past month. Despite year-to-year ups and downs in rates of past month marijuana use, the overall trend has been a decline for the ten-year period beginning 1997. In 2006, marijuana use was only surpassed by

alcohol use. Students were more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes. See Table 10 below.

- Eleventh grade current marijuana use dropped from 23.4 percent in 1997 to 18.7 percent in 2006, representing 20 percent fewer 11th grade students using marijuana in the past 30 days.
- The rate of current marijuana use decreased about a third for 8th grade students. In 1997, 15.5 percent of 8th grade Oregon students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, by 2006 the rate dropped to 9.9 percent. See Table 10 below.

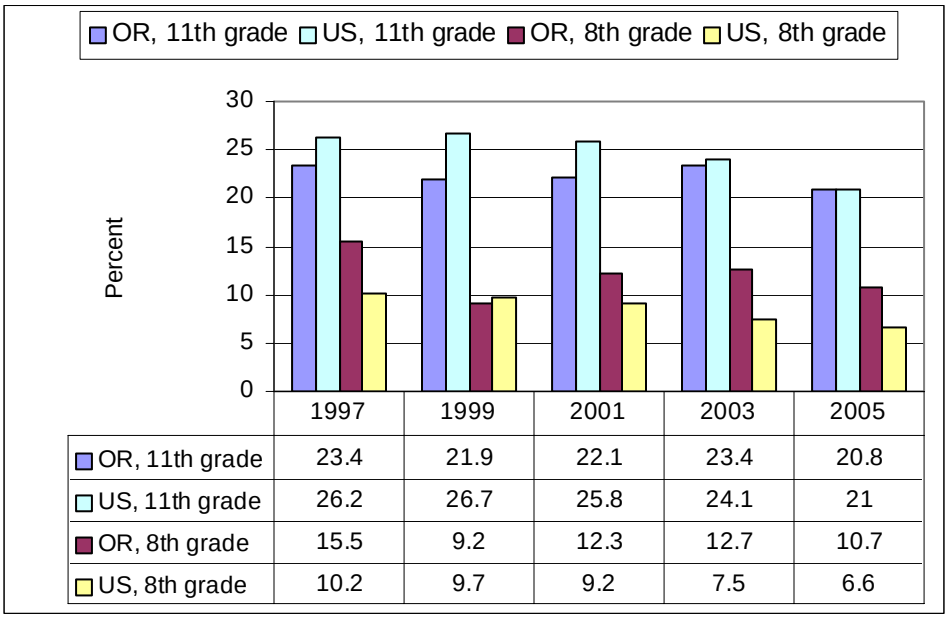
Table 10. Comparison of past month use of alcohol, marijuana and tobacco in Oregon, by grade - 1997 and 2006

	8th grade		11th grade	
	1997	2006	1997	2006
Alcohol	35.3%	31.9%	47.1%	43.9%
Marijuana	15.5%	9.9%	21.9%	18.7%
Tobacco	23.0%	8.7%	24.4%	15.4%

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

- From 1997 through 2003 Oregon 11th grade youth had lower rates of past month marijuana use than the nation. In 2005, the national declines in marijuana use brought the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results for 11th graders in the United States to the same level as Oregon's. Thus, for the first time since 1997, Oregon's 11th grade students did not have a lower rate of marijuana use than the nation. See Figure 11 below.
- In contrast, when Oregon's 8th grade students are compared to national Monitoring the Future Survey results, the rate of past month marijuana use by Oregon's 8th graders exceeds that of the nation every year except 1999. See Figure 11 below.

Figure 11. Past month marijuana use in Oregon and the United States, by grade – 1997 to 2005



	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
OR, 11th grade	23.4	21.9	22.1	23.4	20.8
US, 11th grade	26.2	26.7	25.8	24.1	21
OR, 8th grade	15.5	9.2	12.3	12.7	10.7
US, 8th grade	10.2	9.7	9.2	7.5	6.6

Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Monitoring the Future Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

Gender

Gender differences in past month marijuana use are pronounced among 11th grade youth but less so in 8th grade.

- From 1997 to 2006 there was an overall decline in the percent of male and female students reporting past month marijuana use. Eighth grade females had the largest decrease in past month marijuana use. See Table 11 below.

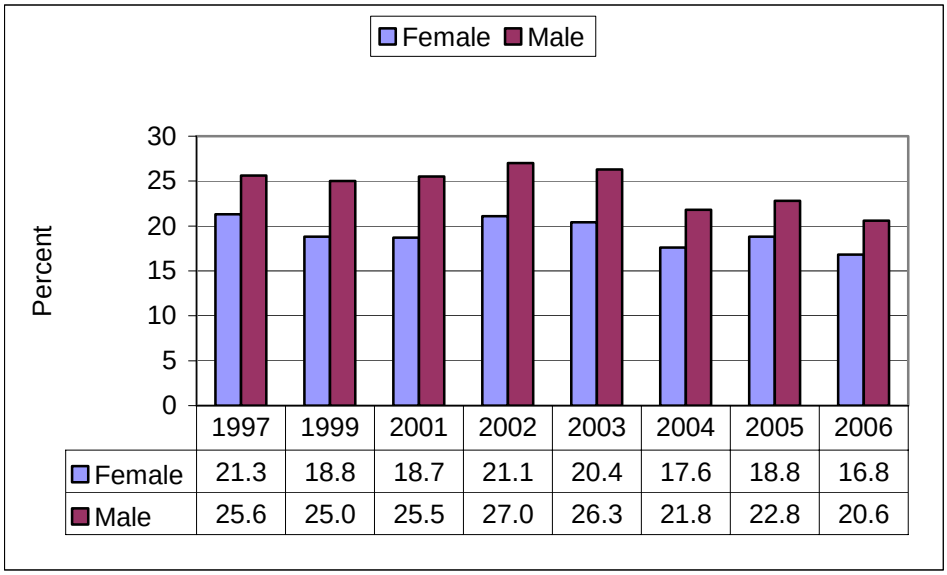
Table 11. Changes in past month marijuana use by Oregon youth, by grade and gender – 1997 to 2006

Grade	Gender	1997	2006	Net decrease	Percent decrease
8th	Female	15.8%	9.1%	-6.7	-42.4%
	Male	15.1%	10.8%	-4.3	-28.5%
11th	Female	21.3%	16.8%	-4.5	-21.1%
	Male	25.6%	20.6%	-5.0	-19.5%

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

- Eleventh grade males consistently had higher rates of marijuana use than females in Oregon. See Figure 12 below.

Figure 12. Percent of 11th grade Oregon youth who used marijuana in the past month, by gender – 1997 to 2006

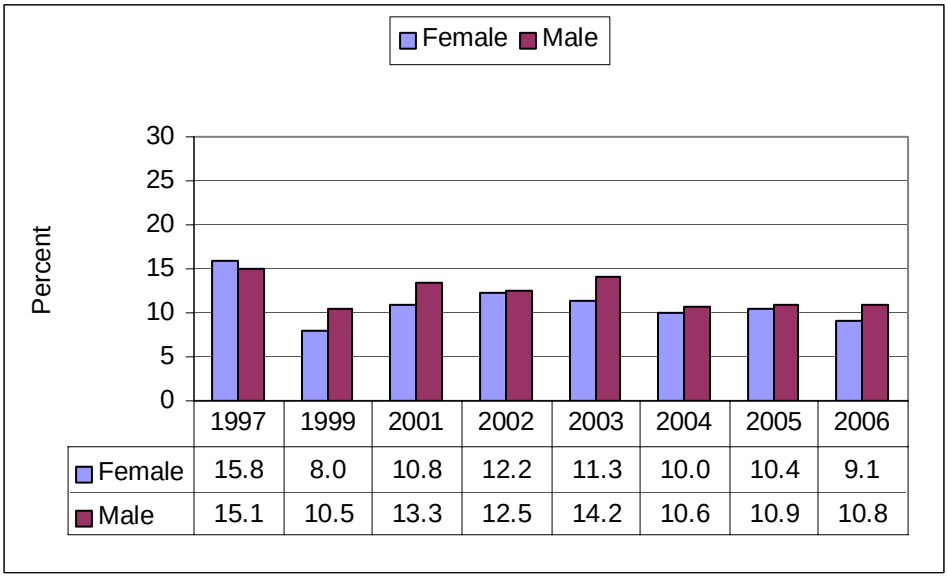


	1997	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Female	21.3	18.8	18.7	21.1	20.4	17.6	18.8	16.8
Male	25.6	25.0	25.5	27.0	26.3	21.8	22.8	20.6

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

- In 8th grade, gender differences in marijuana use are not as pronounced as in 11th grade. Males had higher rates of past month marijuana use in 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2006; females had a higher rate in 1997; in 2002, 2004 and 2005 rates of marijuana use were about the same for males and females. See Figure 13 below.

Figure 13. Percent of 8th grade Oregon youth who used marijuana in the past month, by gender – 1997 to 2006



	1997	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Female	15.8	8.0	10.8	12.2	11.3	10.0	10.4	9.1
Male	15.1	10.5	13.3	12.5	14.2	10.6	10.9	10.8

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Illicit drug use other than marijuana

Oregon's rate of past month illicit drug use other than marijuana includes use of illegal drugs, as well as abuse of legal products such as inhalants and prescription drugs to get high.

- Based on NSDUH results, Oregon youth use illicit drugs at about the same rate as the nation and show a steady decline in use rates over the three years from 2003 to 2005. In 2005, it's estimated that one of every 20 youth ages 12 to 17 used illicit drugs other than marijuana each month. See Table 12 below.

Table 12. Percent of persons 12 to 17 years who used illicit drugs other than marijuana in the past month in Oregon and the United States – 2003 to 2003

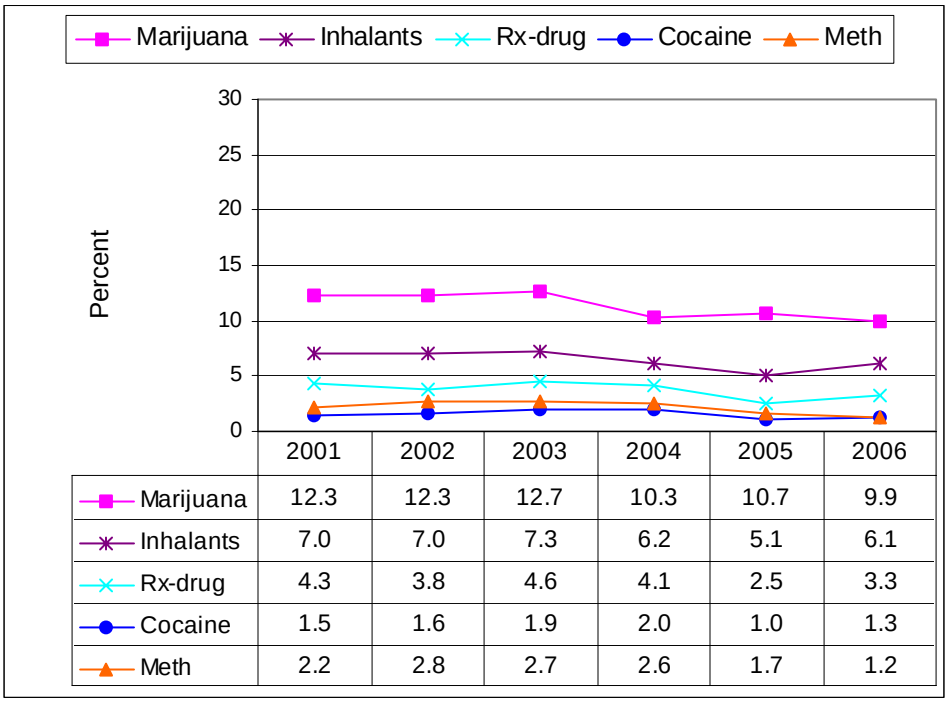
	2003	2004	2005
U.S.	5.7%	5.5%	5.1%
Oregon	5.6%	5.3%	5.0%
(95% confidence interval)	(4.3-7.1)	(4.1-6.9)	(3.8-6.4)

Data Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Based on Oregon Healthy Teens results for 2001 to 2006, the drugs most frequently used by 8th and 11th graders in the past 30 days, were inhalants, prescription drugs, cocaine and methamphetamine. Figure 14 below shows rates of illicit drug use by Oregon 8th graders from 2001 through 2006. There were decreases in use for all of these substances, but the most notable decreases were use of marijuana, prescription drugs and methamphetamine:

- Marijuana use decreased 20 percent from 12.3 percent in 2001 to 9.9 percent in 2006.
- Use of prescription drugs decreased 25 percent from 4.3 percent in 2001 to 3.3 percent in 2006.
- Methamphetamine use decreased 45 percent from 2.2 percent in 2001 to 1.2 percent in 2006.

Figure 14. Comparison of past month drug use rates for 8th grade students in Oregon, by substance – 2001 to 2006



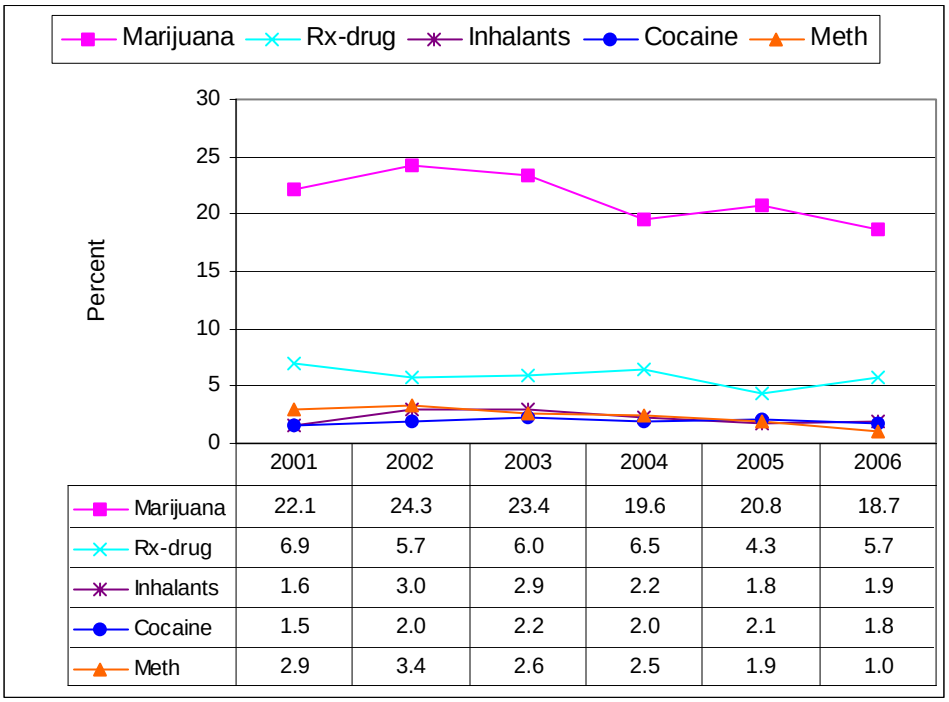
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Marijuana	12.3	12.3	12.7	10.3	10.7	9.9
Inhalants	7.0	7.0	7.3	6.2	5.1	6.1
Rx-drug	4.3	3.8	4.6	4.1	2.5	3.3
Cocaine	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.0	1.0	1.3
Meth	2.2	2.8	2.7	2.6	1.7	1.2

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Figure 15 shows rates of illicit drug use by Oregon 11th graders from 2001 through 2006. Prominent downward trends occurred in use of marijuana, inhalants and methamphetamines:

- Marijuana use peaked in 2002. Since then, marijuana use declined 23 percent from 24.3% in 2002 to 18.7 percent in 2006.
- Inhalant use peaked in 2002 then declined 37 percent from 3.0 percent in 2002 to 1.9 percent in 2006. Despite the decline, 11th grade inhalant use was higher in 2006 than 2001 (1.9% versus 1.6%).
- Methamphetamine use peaked in 2002. Since then, use declined 71 percent from 3.4 percent in 2002 to 1.0 percent in 2006.

Figure 15. Comparison of drug use rates for 11th grade students in Oregon, by substance – 2001 to 2006



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Marijuana	22.1	24.3	23.4	19.6	20.8	18.7
Rx-drug	6.9	5.7	6.0	6.5	4.3	5.7
Inhalants	1.6	3.0	2.9	2.2	1.8	1.9
Cocaine	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8
Meth	2.9	3.4	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.0

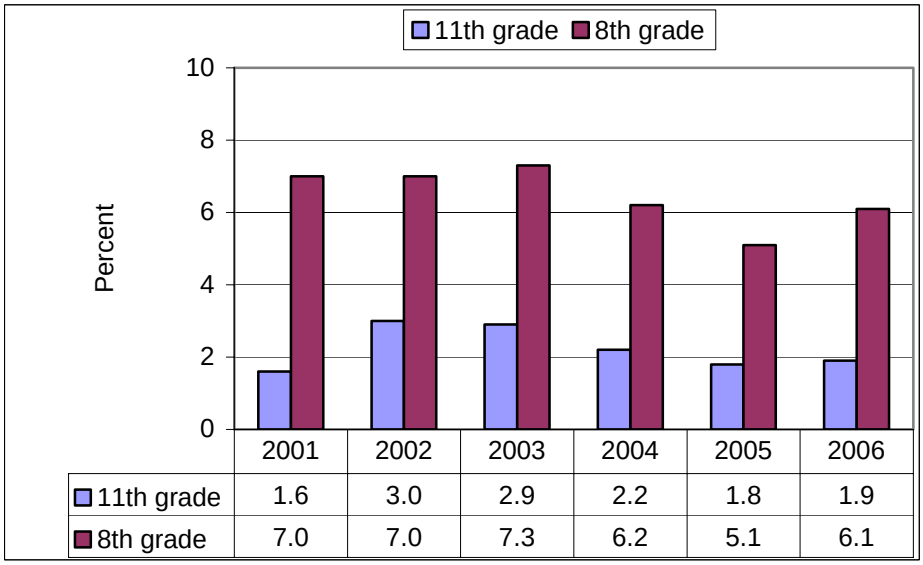
Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Inhalant use

Inhalant use includes activities such as sniffing glue, breathing the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaling any paints, sprays, solvents or other household or industrial products to get high. Inhalant use is a serious concern in Oregon because huffing can result in serious health consequences, including death, the very first time. The rate of 8th grade inhalant use is higher in Oregon than the nation. Use rates peak at a very young age and females are at the greatest risk. This section presents additional Oregon Healthy Teens data on past month use of inhalants by 8th and 11th graders.

- In 2006, three times more 8th graders used inhalants than 11th graders; 6.1 percent of 8th graders used inhalants to get high on at least one occasion in the past month versus 1.9 percent of 11th graders. See Figure 16 below.

Figure 16. Past month inhalant use by Oregon youth, by grade – 1997 to 2006

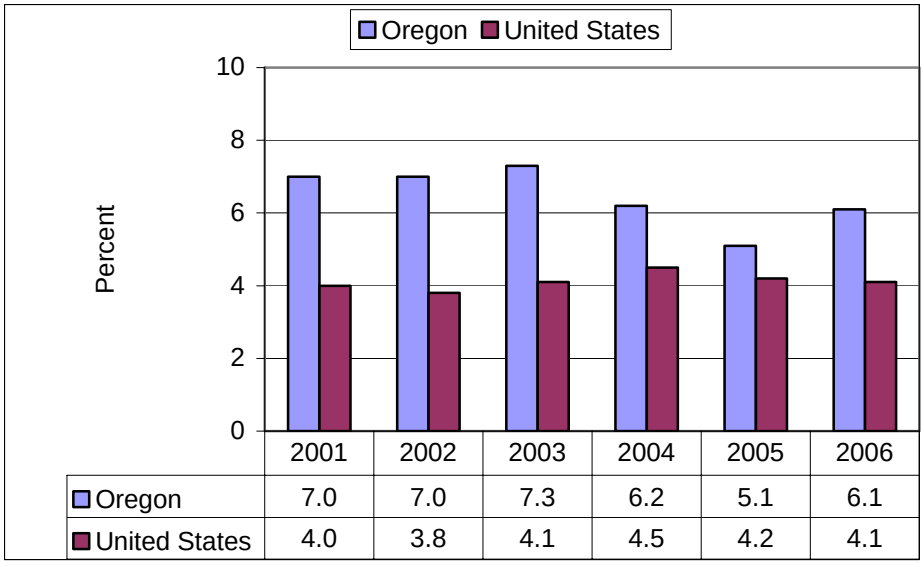


	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
11th grade	1.6	3.0	2.9	2.2	1.8	1.9
8th grade	7.0	7.0	7.3	6.2	5.1	6.1

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

- In 2006, the rate of current inhalant use by Oregon's 8th graders was 50 percent higher than that of the nation when compared to 8th grade results from the Monitoring the Future Survey (6.1 % versus 4.1%). See Figure 17 below.

Figure 17. Past month use of inhalants by 8th graders in Oregon and the United States – 2001 to 2006



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Oregon	7.0	7.0	7.3	6.2	5.1	6.1
United States	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.1

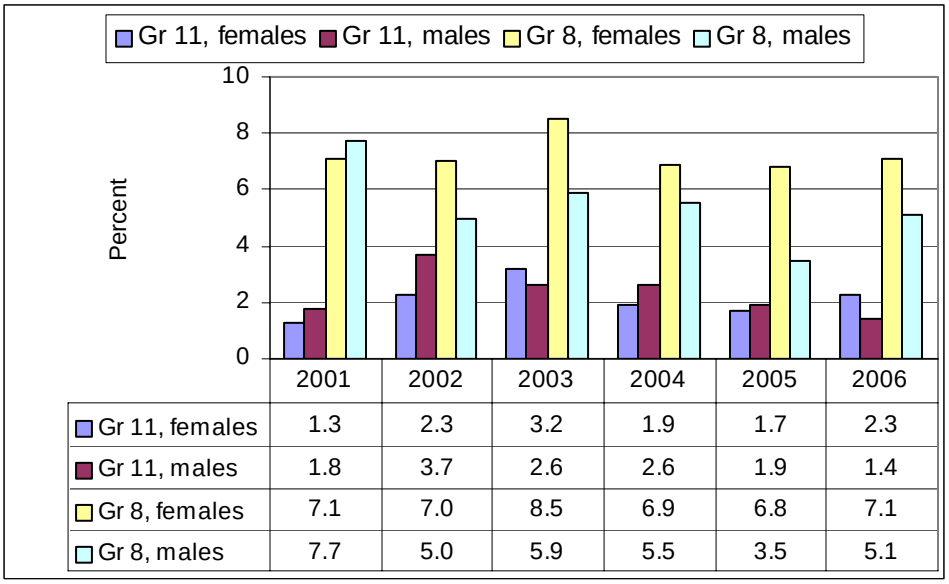
Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Monitoring the Future Survey

Gender

Figure 18 below shows Oregon's 8th grade females usually report the highest rates of inhalant use. In 2006, past month inhalant use for 8th grade females was 7.1 percent versus 5.1 percent for 8th grade males. The rate of inhalant use by 8th grade females was:

- Three times the rate of 11th grade females; and
- Four times the rate of 11th grade males.

Figure 18. Past month use of inhalants by youth in Oregon, by grade and gender - 2001 to 2006



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Gr 11, females	1.3	2.3	3.2	1.9	1.7	2.3
Gr 11, males	1.8	3.7	2.6	2.6	1.9	1.4
Gr 8, females	7.1	7.0	8.5	6.9	6.8	7.1
Gr 8, males	7.7	5.0	5.9	5.5	3.5	5.1

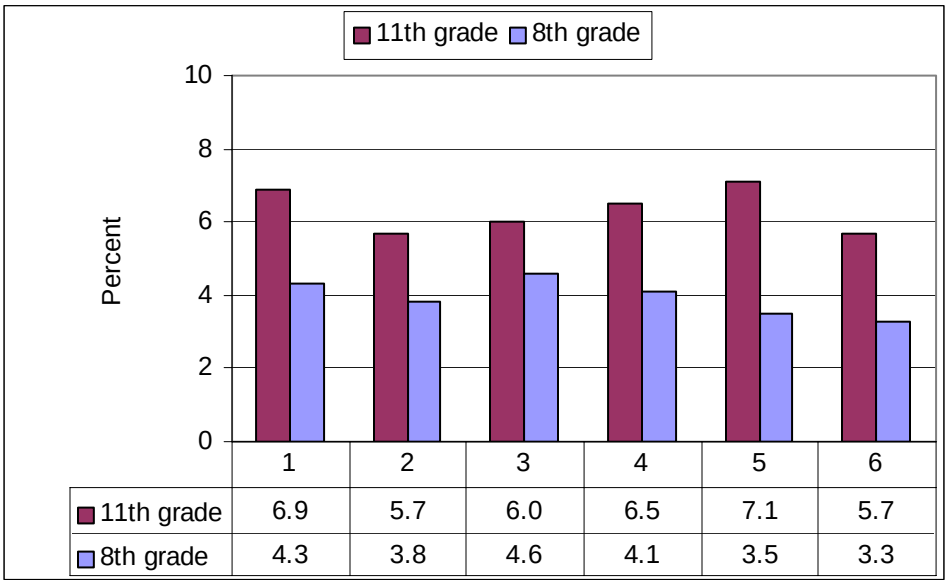
Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Prescription drug use

This section presents Oregon Healthy Teens data on the percent of youth who used prescription drugs to get high in the past month. Prescription drug use is similar to inhalant use and alcohol use in that all these items are readily available to Oregon youth in their homes. In addition, many youth assume that prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs.

- Among 11th grade youth the rate of current prescription drug use is second only to marijuana. In 2006, one of every twenty 11th graders, 5.7 percent, used prescription drugs to get high on at least one occasion in the past month; versus 3.3 percent for 8th graders. See Figure 19 below.

Figure 19. Past month prescription drug use by Oregon youth, by grade – 1997 to 2006



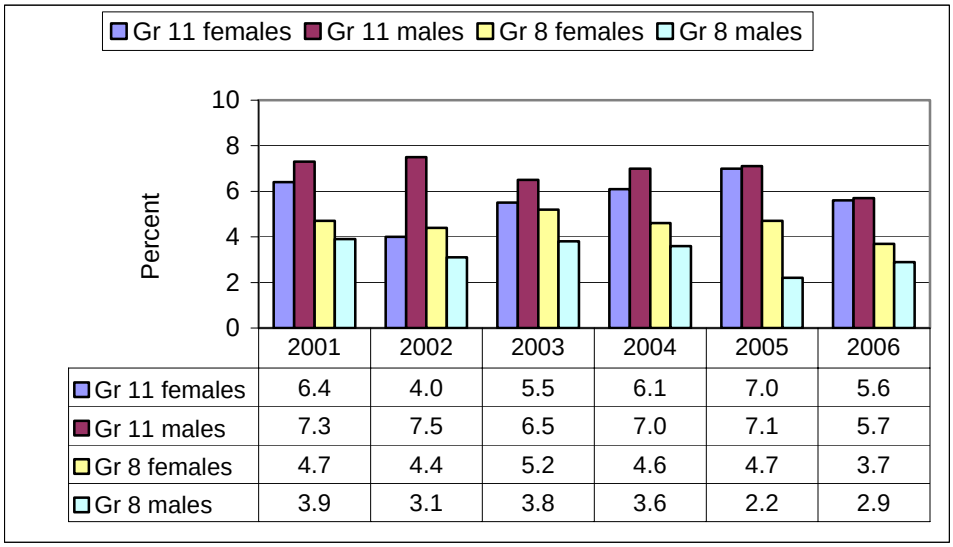
	1	2	3	4	5	6
11th grade	6.9	5.7	6.0	6.5	7.1	5.7
8th grade	4.3	3.8	4.6	4.1	3.5	3.3

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Gender

- From 2001 to 2004 11th grade males had higher rates of prescription drug use. In 2005 and 2006 the rate of past month prescription drug use was about the same for 11th grade males and females. See Figure 20 below.
- Eighth grade females have higher use rates than their male counterparts in all years from 2001 through 2006. In 2006, 3.7 percent of 8th grade females and 2.9 percent of 8th grade males used prescription drugs to get high in the past month. See Figure 20 below.

Figure 20. Past month use of prescription drugs by youth in Oregon, by grade and gender - 2001 to 2006



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Gr 11 females	6.4	4.0	5.5	6.1	7.0	5.6
Gr 11 males	7.3	7.5	6.5	7.0	7.1	5.7
Gr 8 females	4.7	4.4	5.2	4.6	4.7	3.7
Gr 8 males	3.9	3.1	3.8	3.6	2.2	2.9

Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Methamphetamine use

This section presents Oregon Healthy Teens data on use of methamphetamine any time during a youth's lifetime. Results from 1999 to 2005, show a steady decline in lifetime methamphetamine use by Oregon youth. See Table 13 below.

- Lifetime meth use fell by more than a third for 11th grade youth, from 8.4% in 1999 to 4.9% in 2005.
- Decreases also occurred in lifetime meth use among Oregon's 8th grade students. In 2001, 3.7 percent used meth. By 2005 that dropped to 2.7 percent.

Table 13. Comparison of lifetime methamphetamine use in Oregon, by grade and gender – 1999, 2001 and 2005

Grade	**1999**	**2005**	**Net decrease**	**Percent decrease**
11th	8.4%	4.9%	-3.5	-41.7%
Grade	**2001**	**2005**	**Net decrease**	**Percent decrease**
8th	3.8%	2.7%	-1.1	-28.9%

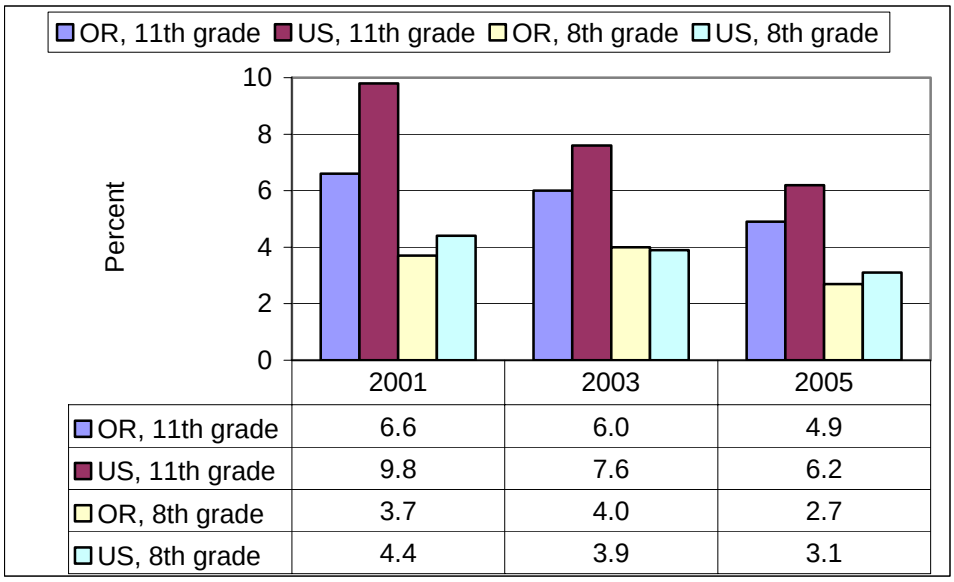
Data Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

- In each of the past five years, Oregon's 11th grade students have been less likely to use methamphetamine than 11th graders in the United

States. In 2005, 4.9 percent of Oregon 11th graders reported using meth in their lifetime compared to 6.2 percent for the United States. See Figure 21 below.

- The rate of lifetime methamphetamine use of Oregon's 8th grade students is close to the national rate. In 2005, Oregon's rate was slightly lower, 2.7 percent versus the national rate of 3.1 percent. See Figure 21 below.

Figure 21. Lifetime use of methamphetamine in Oregon and the United States, by grade – 2001 to 2005



	2001	2003	2005
OR, 11th grade	6.6	6.0	4.9
US, 11th grade	9.8	7.6	6.2
OR, 8th grade	3.7	4.0	2.7
US, 8th grade	4.4	3.9	3.1

Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Monitoring the Future Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

Cocaine use

This section presents Oregon Healthy Teens data on use of cocaine any time during a youth's lifetime and any time in the past month. Unlike other substance use topics discussed in this section, cocaine use has not shown a clear directional change in Oregon.

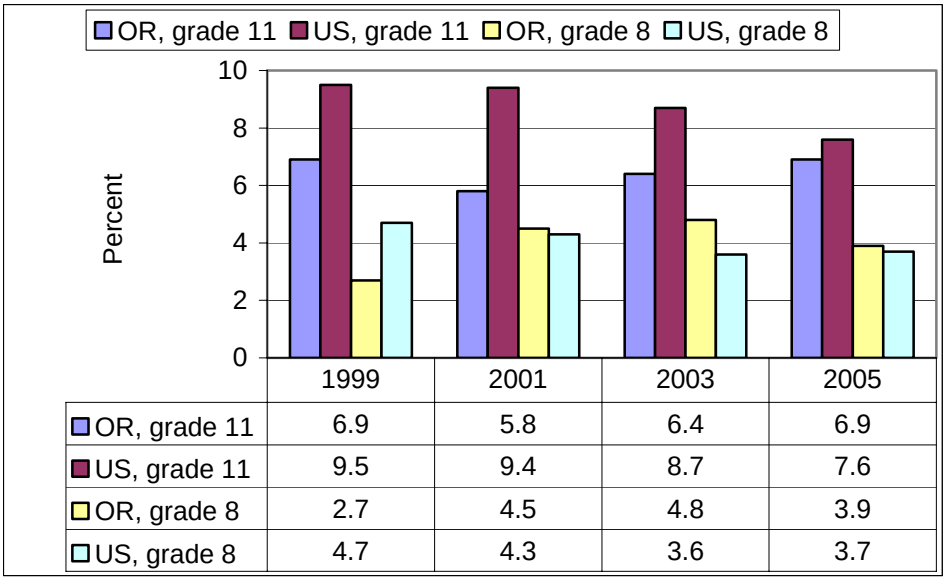
Lifetime use of cocaine

National lifetime cocaine use rates have been declining, while the rate in Oregon has not. See Figure 22 below.

- Since 1999, Oregon's 11th grade students have been consistently less likely to use cocaine than 11th graders in the United States. However, the gap is narrowing as national rates decrease, while Oregon's rates remain flat.

- The rate of lifetime cocaine use for Oregon's 8th grade students fluctuates from year to year. In 2005, the rate for 8th grade Oregonians was close to that of the nation, 3.9 percent versus the national rate of 3.7 percent in 2005.

Figure 22. Lifetime use of cocaine in Oregon and the United States, by grade –1999 to 2005



	1999	2001	2003	2005
OR, grade 11	6.9	5.8	6.4	6.9
US, grade 11	9.5	9.4	8.7	7.6
OR, grade 8	2.7	4.5	4.8	3.9
US, grade 8	4.7	4.3	3.6	3.7

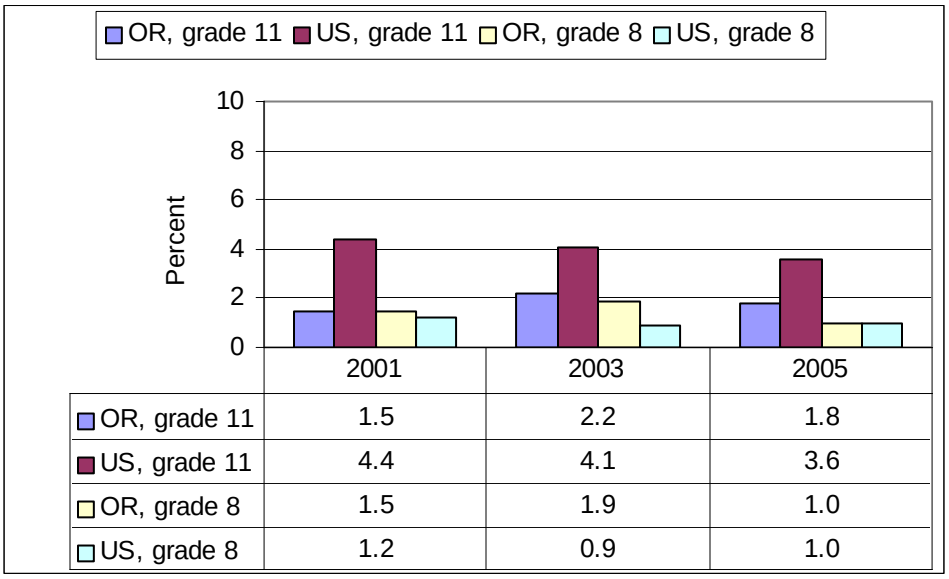
Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Monitoring the Future Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

Current use of cocaine

Current cocaine use includes use of any form of cocaine, including powder, crack or freebase on one or more occasions in the past 30 days. The Oregon Healthy Teens Survey has been tracking past month use of cocaine since 2001. In that time, rates of cocaine use rise and fall from year to year, but there hasn't been a strong directional trend.

- In 2005, Oregon's 11th grade youth had lower rates of past month cocaine use than the nation, 1.8 percent versus 3.6 percent. Current cocaine use fluctuated from a low of 1.5 percent in 2001 to a high of 2.2 percent in 2003. See Figure 23 below.
- Eighth grade students in Oregon had higher rates of past month cocaine use than the nation in 2001 and 2003. In 2005, 8th grade cocaine use rates were 1.0 percent in Oregon and the nation. Current cocaine use fluctuated from a low of 1.0 percent in 2005 to a high of 1.9 percent in 2004. See Figure 23 below.

Figure 23. Past month cocaine use by youth in Oregon and the United States, by grade – 2001 to 2006



	2001	2003	2005
OR, grade 11	1.5	2.2	1.8
US, grade 11	4.4	4.1	3.6
OR, grade 8	1.5	1.9	1.0
US, grade 8	1.2	0.9	1.0

Data Sources: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, Monitoring the Future Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

What we learned about illicit drugs

Illicit drug use impacts Oregon more than the nation. Oregon has higher rates of marijuana use, methamphetamine use, and illicit use of prescription stimulants and pain relievers. Deaths due to illicit drug use have been increasing outside of the greater Portland metropolitan area.

Patterns of illicit drug use by Oregon youth differ from those of alcohol or cigarettes. When it comes to alcohol and cigarettes, youth 12 to 17 years old are less than half as likely as adults 26 or older to report use in the past month. However, Oregon youth are more likely to use, abuse or be dependent on illicit drugs than adults 26 or older. Rates of marijuana use by Oregon youth are more than double the rate of adults 26 or older. Estimates of drug abuse or dependence for youth were also twice the adult rate.

Based on Oregon Healthy Teens results, the drugs most frequently used by 8th and 11th graders were marijuana, inhalants, prescription drugs, cocaine and methamphetamine. Youth were more likely to smoke marijuana in the past month than cigarettes. Rates of illicit drug use by Oregon 8th graders showed decreases in use for all substances in the past five years. Rates of illicit drug use by Oregon 11th graders showed steady downward trends in marijuana and methamphetamine use but little change in prescription drug use, use of inhalants and cocaine use.

Consequences of illicit drug use

DSM-IV criteria used to estimate Oregon rates of past year drug abuse or dependence shows:

- One out of twenty youth ages 12 to 17 suffers from drug abuse or dependence (5.7%);
- Almost one out of ten young adults 18 to 25 years (9.2%), abuses or is dependent on one or more illicit drugs; but
- The rate for adults 26 or older is less than two of every hundred (1.5%).

Based on Vital Statistics' data, Oregon's drug-related mortality rate was at least twice the rate of the United States every year from 1999 to 2003. Males were more likely to die from drugs; in 2003 males had 5 times the rate of drug-related deaths as females.

The Medical Examiner's Annual Drug-Related Deaths Report provides additional information that reflects the impact of methamphetamine use as it spread throughout the state.

- From 1999 to 2001, a drop in heroin-related deaths resulted in a decrease in the overall rate of drug-related deaths reported by the Medical Examiner. Beginning in 2001, methamphetamine-related deaths drove the number of drug-related deaths back up. In 2005, for the first time, the number of methamphetamine-related deaths equaled that of heroin-related deaths, 86 each.
- In the last five years there's been a notable shift in where drug-related deaths are taking place. Historically deaths occurred overwhelmingly in the tri-county area surrounding Portland, including Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. Comparison of 2002 deaths with those of 2005 shows drug-related deaths decreased in the Portland tri-county area even though the total number of deaths increased in the state.
- From 2002 to 2005 the total number of drug-related deaths occurring in the Portland tri-county area decreased from 123 to 109, but increased from 53 to 93 elsewhere.
- In 2002, 69.9 percent of all drug-related deaths in Oregon occurred in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington counties. By 2005, that dropped to 55.6 percent.
- In 2002 about half of the methamphetamine-related deaths occurred in the Portland tri-county area. In 2005,the tri-counties had one quarter of the meth-related deaths and three quarters occurred outside of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties.

Illicit drug consumption in Oregon

- Marijuana use by 8th and 11th graders was surpassed only by alcohol use. Students were more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes; this is despite an overall decline in marijuana use from 1999 to 2006. A comparison of Oregon to the United States shows Oregon males are less likely to begin using marijuana under 13 years of age; but females had higher rates of early first use than the nation in 1999, 2003 and 2005.
- The highest rates of past month inhalant use are reported by 8th graders. In 2006, the rate of inhalant use by Oregon 8th graders was 50 percent higher than that of the nation, 6.1 percent versus 4.1 percent. Eighth grade females reported the highest rate of inhalant use. In 2006, the rate of inhalant use by 8th grade females was three times the rate of 11th grade females; four times the rate of 11th grade males; and past month inhalant use for 8th grade females was 7.1 percent versus 5.1 percent for 8th grade males.
- In 2006, one of every twenty 11th graders (5.7%) used prescription drugs to get high on at least one occasion in the past month versus 3.3 percent for 8th graders.
- The rate of methamphetamine use by Oregon students has steadily declined. By 2005 11th graders' lifetime methamphetamine use had fallen by more than a third. In 1999, 8.8 percent of the females and 7.1 percent of the males used meth. By 2005 that dropped to 5.5 percent for females and 4.3 percent for males.
- Similar decreases in lifetime meth use occurred among Oregon's 8th grade students sometime in their life. In 2001, 4.3 percent of the females and 3.1 percent of the males used meth. By 2005 that dropped to 3.1 percent for females and 2.4 percent for males.
- Cocaine use by Oregon youth has changed little. In 2006, 1.5 percent of 11th graders and 1.3 percent of 8th graders reported using cocaine in the past month.
- Oregon's rate of marijuana use is higher than that of the nation. About one of every five adults 18 to 25 years (20.9%); and one of every eight adults 26 or older (6.11%) used marijuana in the past month. In 2005 the rate of marijuana use by adults 26 or older was 50 percent higher than that of the nation (4.7%).
- About one of every ten adults 18 to 25 used illicit drugs other than marijuana (10.6%). This is 25 percent higher than the national rate (8.5%). Illicit drug use by Oregon adults 26 or older was the same as the nation, 2.4 percent.

[1] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death. Hyattsville, MD, years 1999 through 2003.
[2] Wright, D. & Sathe, N. *State Estimates of Substance Use from the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health.* Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. Accessed online, <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/>
[3] National Institute on Drug Abuse. *NIDA InfoFacts, Marijuana*. National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, April 2006. Acccessed online, February 2007 <www.drugabuse.gov>
[4] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2006). *Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings.* Office of Applied Studies. Rockville, MD. Accessed online, October 2006 <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduhLatest.htm>